

The Mixumaxu Gazette

New collection of poems by Ishmael Reed, "catholicism of a neoamerican hoodoo church," published by Broadside Press (12051 1st Ave. N., Detroit, Mich. 48208) \$5.95

ADVERTISEMENT

I was born a Roman Catholic Republican
Now I'm a Roman Catholic Democrat
And an Attonement-Friar.
That's not all bud!



"WHEN DO WE GET TO SEE
SOME GUY DISCIPLINE?"

MEN

It can be done

SURVIVAL INSTRUCTIONS: What to Do While the Establishment Disappears into its Own Ashhole



Unkindest cut

A man with a roaring chainsaw ran down the aisle of a cinema in Toronto, scattering about 75 people watching 'The Texas Chainsaw Massacre.' Police, who said the saw had no cutting chain, yesterday charged André Harold Seward, 21, with being a common nuisance.



All the power comes from the solar generator.

BUT, DORIS, I'VE MADE A BIG DISCOVERY AND I WANT TO SHARE IT WITH YOU!

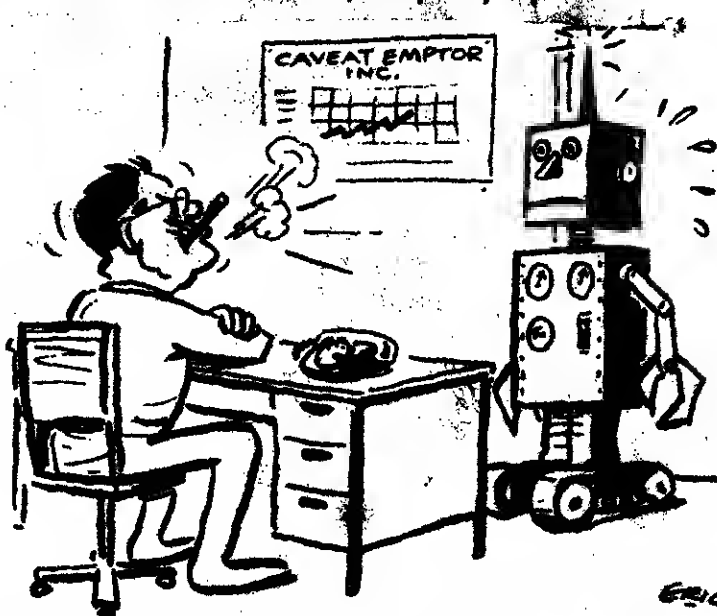
IS THIS ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR TRICKS, ANGELICA?



CHANCE IT, AND FIND OUT!



Tricky but effective—girls from Our Lady of Perpetual Help are pretty hep.



"If you don't stop insisting on your rights we'll hire twelve workers to take your place!"

This England

Prizes: £1 book token for first entry, 50p token for others printed. Paste entries on a postcard.

☐ Rolls-Royce share certificates wanted as souvenirs. - notice to *The Times* (E. Wolman)

☐ Housewife Pearl Cooper, of Langford Road, Peckham, London, said: 'We came to see a nude ballet because we like a bit of culture.' - *Daily Mirror* (M. Palmer)

☐ Mr Ted Graham, general secretary, said the Co-operative Party's conference last year had given the Labour movement a lead by deciding on a wait-and-see policy. - *Birmingham Post* (W. Knowles)

☐ Rose trees planted in parks and open spaces at South Kirkby, near Barnsley, have been painted red to deter thieves. - *Guardian* (W. Parsons)

☐ It is true that the noise nuisance in the West End is an offence to human ears, but the raucous din comes from record shops and discotheques, not the hot-dog vendors, the appetising fragrance of whose wares is sufficient encouragement to their customers. - letter to *Daily Telegraph* (F. Pickles)

☐ Because the (NHS) charges are scaled according to the power required in the lens, those with the worst eyesight will have to pay more. - *Guardian* (R. N. Cull)

☐ Mr Frank Mundy, the manager of the Albert Hall says: 'Some people think of this as a fuddy-duddy place, but we are not even slightly dead. We cannot put on the more hysterical sort of pop concerts here. For one thing it damages the hall, and for another we were founded by Queen Victoria. But we keep pace with the times.' - *The Times* (G. Watson)

20. PROCRASTINATION; Mark Isacoff, student. What procrastination is, its history, its psychological motivation, its relationship to waiting, eagerness, and space-time continuity. Hours not yet arranged, but we'll get around to it.

Action on Building Bribes
Delayed by Lack of Funds

Well, ah, this is it. The last of the big issues of the Gazette. As I begin writing this, there has been no adverse reaction, which is hardly surprising, since it is only a week. In fact, I've been hard-pressed to get any reaction. I spoke to Ray Heuer Thursday. "Did you get the Gazette yet?" "It came in yesterday." "What do you think of my folding?" "Oh, I haven't read it yet." I mentioned the fact to John Board-

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man in the course of our interminable exchange of letters. His reaction? "That's too bad." I would have gotten a three-page letter on foot afflictions in Pre-Revolutionary America if I had mentioned that I had an ingrown toenail.

My family has reacted as I expected them to, of course. "Good! It's time you dumped that thing," one family member said, although names will not, of course, be mentioned. The closest I came to a positive reaction was, when telling family that I was preparing to fold, one asked "How long have you been running that... thing...?"

"Five and a half years."

"My god! What have you written about for that time?"

I went away, wondering, then realized that the answer was simple: People. For five and a half years, I have written about people. This magazine has been about, for and by you. And, by and large, it has been a good run, despite, or perhaps because of all the shouting that has gone on. Mark Berch may think his feud is something new. Hahahaha.

What surprises me is that, despite everything, I have managed to remain on speaking terms with almost everyone around. There must be something wrong with someone on good terms with Rod Walker and John Beshara; likewise, as to anyone who attempts to answer typed letters from David Lagerson (it only encourages him, after all).

Five and a half years as a publisher, goddamn it. Seven and a half in the hobby. What was my favorite piece of the hobby?

Thinking back on it, it would have to be 1976's DipCon, Origins II, during the seminar period, helping Edi Birsan draw a Diplomacy map on a blackboard so he could illustrate his lecture on the Lepanto; John Boardman giving his lecture on How to Found the Diplomacy Hobby and the incredible question-and-answer period that followed, with questions answered on how Edi pulled the greatest stab in history on Buddy Tretick and so on, followed by the IDA meeting that signed that club's death warrant (I think I'll destroy IDA this weekend, I mentioned to someone, and Len Lakofka had come along to beg me not to do it.

Bad times too: when Ulanov and Heuer came back from 1974's DipCon to announce that Ray had been diddled out of the Boardman Numbers, and the gradually-revealed story of how Nick had thrown Ray to the wolves. The moment at 1975's DipCon when Gordon Anderson announced that he had copyrighted the name "DipCon" and, a few hours later, he offered me the franchise on NYC DipCons; that is perhaps the one time I regret having been polite.

And now, of course. It would be so easy to not say goodbye; but I've said all I can. I would like to ask a favor, though: if you see my name on a book, buy it. I'll even autograph it.

Abyssinia,


Robert Bryan Lipton

FILKSONGS

BY: Harold Groot

TUNE: "I am the Captain of the Pinafore"

I am the Sultan when I send my moves,
But I'm the Minister of War to you.
I'm exceedingly polite when I don't want to fight,
And I'm nasty when I do.
I'm never known to quail at bad news in the mail,
Whatever the emergency.
I always keep my word, no matter what you've heard.
I will never, ever lie to thee.

What, never?

No, never.

What, never?

Well, hardly ever!

I will hardly ever lie to thee, so
Give three cheers and one cheer more
For the Sultan's loyal Minister of War.
Give three cheers and one cheer more for
The loyal Minister of War!

I always send some moves by return mail,
For I know they can be changed;
Then, next, I send a note to a neighbor with a boat
For a convoy to be arranged.
In Diplomacy it is good strategy
If allied to me you are.
I'll never make a move of which you won't approve,
And I'll never have an NMR!

What, never?

No, never!

What never?

Well, hardly ever!

Hardly ever have an NMR so
Give three cheers and one cheer more
For the Sultan's timely Minister of War.
Give three cheers and one cheer more for
The timely Minister of War!

THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE TURKS

BY: Ronald Foster

TUNE: "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the capture of Naples,
We have trampled through the vineyard where the wines of Venice are staples,
We are marching on Rome to end the rule that's papal:
Our armies are moving on!
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!
We have even got Apulia!
Turkey's won the game,
And it's Austria-Hungary's blame,
Since he NMRed once again!

IF I HAD A MIMEO

BY: Roy Smith

TUNE: "If I had a Hammer"

If I had a mimeo,
I'd publish in the mo-or-ning,
I'd publish in the ev-en-ing:
A Diplomacy zine!
I'd write about Dippy,
I'd write about D&D,
I'd write about the feuds between the Liptons and the Sackses
In my Diplomacy zi-i-ine.

If I had a ditto,
I'd publish in the mo-or-ning,
I'd publish in the ev-en-ing:
A Diplomacy zine!
I'd write about SF,
I'd write about Di-ip-Con,
I'd write about the feuds between the Oaklyns and the Walkers
In my Diplomacy zi-i-ine.

If I had a xerox.
I'd publish in the mo-or-ning,
I'd publish in the ev-en-ing:
A Diplomacy zine! I'd write about A-H,
I'd write about S.P.I.,
I'd write about the feuds between the Rowlands and the Gibsons
In my Diplomacy zi-i-ine.

Well, I've got a mimeo.
My college has a ditto,
And there are stores to xerox
Diplomacy zines!
So I write about Dip World!
And I write Ta-ac-tics,
And I write about the feuds between the Boardmans and Lakofkas
In my Diplomacy zi-i-ine!

MY ALLY

BY: Harold Groot

TUNE: "Thre Blind Mice

My ally,
My ally,
He NMRed,
He NMRed.
I planned so carefully and attacked,
My enemies' would surely have cracked,
Instead, my capital has been sacked.
He NMRed.

THE DIPLOMAT'S RAG

Y: Harold Groot

UNE: "Draft Dodger's Rag"

Well, I'm juat a typical Diplomat
In a postal Diplomacy game.
I sing the blues 'cause when I lose,
My allies are to blame.
A stab in the back, a surprise attack,
Well, those are the tools of the trade.
You've probably heard that I've broken my word
In every treaty that I've ever made.

I've NMRed and I've been barred
From alliances with honorable men,
But they are few and, with postage due,
I signed a treaty again.
A build or two, and then he's due
To find me where I shouldn't be.
He'll ask me why 'fore he says goodbye
As his centers go to me.

IN THE YEAR 1901

Y: Harold Groot

UNE: "In the Year 2525"

In the year 1901
The war had just begun.
It was a lot of fun
To grab centers....

In the year 1902
My list of alliea included you.
You sent a letter where you said you'd fight,
And our future was looking bright.

In the year 1903
I asked "What is your strategy?"
You told me where to attack and when,
And I committed all my men.

In the year 1904
I was bogged down in a three-front war.
I sent a letter and I asked for aid.
I needed a shield, but I saw your blade, woe-oh!

In the year 1905
Not all my units could survive.
They started back the way they came,
And you're the one to blame.

In the year 1906
I waa really in an awful fix.
My Fleet Aegean had to retreat or die.
I watched my units homeward fly, woe-oh! (continued next page)

Now my army's in retreat,
Plodding home on weary feet.
The gob was in his bunk
When my fleet was sunk.

But, though to me you've lied,
Next game we'll be allied,
And for revenge I'll thirst.
Maybe I'll get to backstab first.

In the year 1901
The war had just begun....

YOU'RE SO VAIN

BY: Harold Groot

TUNE: "You're so Vain"

You walked right into Venice
Like you were boarding a champagne flight,
Your fleet strategically placed to give support,
And spoiling for a fight.
He had one eye on Apulia as
You conquered all in sight.
All of your foes dreamed that they'd be your partner,
They'd be your partner and

CHORUS: You're so vain, you probably think this song is about you.
You're so vain, you probably think this song is about you,
Don't you? Don't you?

Well, you had me several years ago,
When I was still quite naive,
When you said we made such a pretty pair,
And that you would never leave,
But you turned your back on all your friends,
And one of them was me.
I had some dreams, they were clouds in my coffee,
Clouds in my coffee and CHORUS

Well, you sent your troops to Burgundy
And your forces naturally won;
Then you sent your 6th fleet to the shores of Marseilles,
So they could lay about in the sun.
Now you're where you should be all the time,
And if you're not, you're with some underworld spy,
Just to arrange a backstab,
Arrange a backstab and CHORUS

TOKA THE TOWN

1: THE MIXUMAXU GAZETTE is a quadriweekly publication of postal Diplomacy and whatnot, soon to be just a publication of postal Diplomacy. Subscriptions are available at the rate of eight issues for \$1. Please make all checks, payable in American moneys, to Robert Bryan Lipton.

SPRING 1908

AUSTRIA [Tom Kissner] A Gas S GERMAN A Par-Bre; A Mar S A Gas; F Lyo S
TURKISH F Spa(sc); F Tun H; A Nap H; F Adr-Ion; A Ven-Tri; A Tyr H;
A Gal H; A Vie S A Gal

ENGLAND [Bert van den Boogaard] F Edi-Nth; F Den-Kie; F Eng S F Edi-Nth;
F NAT S F Mid; F Bre S F Mid; F Mid S FRENCH A Por-Spa; A Nwy S GERMAN
A StP; A Bel-Hol

FRANCE [Eric P. Verheiden] A Por S TURKISH F Spa(sc)

GERMANY [Dennis Klein] A StP S ENGLISH A Nwy; A Par-Pic; A Kie-Den; A Mun H;
A Bur-Ruh; F Nth-Edi(retreats-Lon, Yor, Nrg, Ska, Hel, Bel)

TURKEY [Mark L. Berch] F Wes S F Spa(sc); F Spa(sc) S AUSTRIAN A Gas-Por;
A Ukr-War; F Rum wonders why it takes three countries to wipe out one
unit; F Ion-Tun; A War-Lvn; A Lvn-Mos; A Mos-Ukr

ANKARA: "I've just had a lobotomy," said Roger, absentmindedly.

The draw proposal failed. Fall 1908 moves are due by Thursday, 4 January 1978.

.....

MG XIX

GROOT BREAKS INTO THE IONIAN

SPRING 1903

AUSTRIA [Dick Trtek] A Vie-Gal; F Adr-Apu
ENGLAND [Ronald de Bracmoor] F Lvp-Iri; A Edi-Nwy; F Nth C A Edi-Nwy; A Swe-Fin; F Bar S A Edi-Nwy
FRANCE [Laurence Lurio] F Por-Mid; F Bre-Eng; A Pic-Bel; A Bur-Ruh (dis-
lodged; retreats- Par, Gas, ann); A Mar-Bur
GERMANY [Paul G. Rauterberg] A Sil S AUSTRIAN A Vie-Gal; A Den H; A Ber-
Pru; A Mun-Bur; A Ruh S A Mun-Bur; F Bel-Eng
ITALY [Marck A. Morrison] F Nap-Apu; F Alb-Adr; A Tri-Vie; A Tyr S A Tri-
Vie; A Ven-Tri
RUSSIA [Kevin Knight] A Gal-Bud(retreats-War, Ukr, ann); A StP H; F Rum H;
F Fin S A StP
TURKEY [Harold Groot] F Con-Bla; P Smy-Arm; F Bul(ec) S F Con-Bla; F Aeg-Ion;
A Gre-Ser

Fall 1904 moves are due by Thursday, 4 January 1978

[illegible]

1978 AI

**BOWERS TAKES MORE CENTERS! CONCESSION
VOTE TO BE TAKEN**

FALL 1904

AUSTRIA [Ronald M. Kelly] RESIGNS. A Tri, F Ven, A Ser, A Bud all Hold; A Gal H (retreats-Vie, Boh, Sil, ann); F Gre H (retreats-Alb, ann); A Rum H (ann). Owns Bud, ~~Gre~~, ~~Rum~~, Ser, Tri, Vie, Ven(5). Must remove one.

ENGLAND [Brian C. Gister] A Lvn-StP; F Den-Swe; A Nwy S F Den-Swe; A Kie-Den; F Edi-Nth; A Yor-Lvp. Owns Den, Edi, ~~Kie~~, Lvp, Lon, Nwy, StP, Swe(7). Even. Also F Nwy-Lon.

FRANCE (Bill Bowers) F Iri-Wal; F Eng-Nth; F Hol S A Ruh-Kie; A Ber S A Ruh-Kie; A Ruh-Kie; A Bur-Mun; A Mar-Pie; A Rom-Ven; F Tyr S F Ion-Tun; F Ion-Tun. Owns Bel, Ber, Bre, Hol, Kie, Mun, Nap, Par, Por, Rom, Spa, Tun(12). May build three units.

GERMANY [William C. Newell Jr.] F Swe H(retreats to Fin and is removed)

ITALY [Civil Disorder] A Tun H

RUSSIA [Ronald de Bracmoor] A Ukr-Gal; A War S A Ukr-Gal; A Mos-StP. Owns ~~Bel~~, Mos, War(2). must remove one unit.

TURKEY [Dennis Klein] A Con-Rum; F Bla C A Con-Rum; A Sev S A Con-Rum; F Aeg-Gre; A Bul S F Aeg-Gre. Owns Ank, Bul, Con, Gre, Rum, Sev, Smy(7). May build one unit.

Ron Kelly has resigned, sort of. See the article at the close of this. Will Paul G. Rauterberg, Box 567 Milwaukee, Wisc. 53201 please submit standby orders for Austria? Or something like that. Winter 1904 builds and removals are due by Thursday, 4 January 1978

1978 AA

LOTS OF PEOPLE MISS THEIR MOVES

LIMBO

I have three sets of missing moves, and so I am extending the deadline until Thursday, 4 December 1978. Since one of them is Ronald Kelly who is resigning, will Ronald de Bracmoor, 5219 A Murdoch, St. Louis, Mo. 63109 please submit moves for Austria? Fall 1904, that is.

1977 KL

RUSSIANS ADVANCE IN BALKANS

FALL 1906

AUSTRIA [Zane Parks] A Ser-Gre; A Bud-Tri; A Alb S A Bud-Tri. Owns Ser, Tri, ~~Bud~~, ~~Alb~~(2). Rem. 1.

ENGLAND [Thomas Slaughter Jr.] NMR! F Cly, F Nth, F Ska & A StP all H; F Wal H(dislodged; retreats-Tri, ann); F Den H(dislodged; retreats- Swe, Bal, Hel, ann). Owns ~~Den~~, Edi, Lvp, Lon, Nwy, StP, Swe(6).

FRANCE [Paul Stevens] F Tun-Lon; F Tyr-Rom; F Lyo-Wes; F Lvp-Wal; F Eng S F Lvp-Wal; A Bel S GERMAN A Ruh-Hol; A Mar-Pie; A Nap S F Tyr-Rom. Owns Bel, Bre, Mar, Nap, Par, Por, ~~Rom~~, Spa, Tun(8). Even.

GERMANY [Dennis Klein] A Ber H; A Ruh-Hol; F Hel-Den; A Kie S F Hel-Den. Owns Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Mun(5). May build one unit.

ITALY [Thomas G. Bannon] A Tri-Vie(retreats-Ven, ann); A Rom S F Ion-Nap; F Ion-Nap; F Tus-Tyr; F Gre-Ion. Owns Gre, ~~Nap~~, ~~Rom~~, ~~Vie~~, Ven, ~~Vie~~(3). Must remove two units.

RUSSIA [Paul G. Rauterberg] A Gal-Bud; A Vie S A Gal-Bud; A Rum-Bul; F Sev-Rum; F Bla & A Con S A Rum-Bul; A Mos-StP. Owns Ank, Bud, Bul, Con, Mos, Rum, Sev, Smy, Vie, War(10). May build two, will be one short.

Will Eric P. Verheiden please submit standby orders for England? Winter 1906 and Spring 1907 orders (if no one objects) will be due on 4 Jan. 1978. Eric's address, by the by, is 200 S. Azusa Ave. #2, Azusa, Ca. 91702.

1977 KK

TURKS OCCUPY CENTRAL ITALY

FALL 1907

AUSTRIA [Dennis Klein] A Tri S A Vie; A Vie S A Boh; A Boh S ITALIAN A Tyr; A Bud & A Bul S A Rum; A Rum H. Owns Bud, Bul, Rum, Ser, Tri, Vie(6), even.

ENGLAND [David Lagerson] NMR! F Por, F Wes, F Naf, F Bre, F Nwy, F StP(nc) all H. Owns Bre, Edi, Lvp, Lon, Nwy, Por, Spa(7). Even.

GERMANY [Zane Parks] A Mun S A Sil-Boh; A Sil-Boh; A Sev S A Ukr-Rum; A Gal S A Sil-Boh; A Ukr-Rum; A Ber S A Mun; A War S A Gal; A Bur S A Mar; F Bal H; A Mar H(dislodged; retreats-Gas, ann). Owns Bel, Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Mos, Mun, Par, Sev, War, Swe. May build one.

ITALY [Eric P. Verheiden] A Gre H; F Spa(sc)-Mar; F Lyo & A Pie S A Spa(sc)-Mar;
A Tyr S AUSTRIAN A Boh. Owns Gre, Mar, Spa, Ven(3). Must remove two units.

TURKEY [Thomas G. Bannon] A Con-Ank; F Tun S F Tyr; F Tus-Rom; F Ion-Nap; F Tyr S F Tun.
Owns Ank, Con, Nap, Smy, Tun, Rom(6). May build two units.

Will Burt van den Boogaard, 616 Hendry, Lister Hall Complex, 116th 87th Ave, Edmonton, Alta. CANADA T6G 2H6 and a floy-floy please submit standby orders for England? Winter 1906 and Spring 1907 orders are due by Thursday, 4 January 1978

FALL 1906

AUSTRIA [John McElvaney] P Nap, F Ion, F Aeg, A Rum, A Gal, A Bud & F Bul all H. Owns Bud, Bul, Gre, Nap, Rum, Ser, Tri, Ven, Vie(9). May build two units.

ENGLAND [Bill Bowers] A Edi-Lvp (retreats-Yor,Cly,ann); F Lon-Wal (retreats-Yor,ann). Owns
Edi,Lon(O). Out

FRANCE [Allen Beale] F Tun H; A Rom H; A Mun-Ber; A Bur S A Pic-Bel; A Pic-Bel; F Eng S F Wal-Lon; F Wal-Lon; A Lvp-Edi; F Nrg S A Lvp-Edi. Owns Bel, Bre, Edi, Lon, Mar, Mun, Par, Por, Spa, Lvp, Rom, Tun(12). May build three units.

GERMANY [Thomas Slaughter, Jr.] NMR! A Ber, F Nth, F Hol Hold. A Den H (retreats-Kie,ann);
A Bel H (retreats-Hol,Ruh,ann). Owns Ber, ~~Den~~, ~~Bel~~, Hol, Kie(3). Must remove two units.

ITALY[Ronald Truckman] F Nap ann. Owns Nap(0). Out

RUSSIA [Paul G, Rauterberg] A Rum ann. F Con-Bla; F Smy S A Ank-Con; A Ank-Con; F Sev-Rum; F Ska-Nth; A Nwy H; A Swe-Den; F Bal S F Swe-Den. Owns Ank, Con, Den, Mos, ~~Rum~~, Nwy, StP, Sev, Swe, Smy, War(10). May build two units.

Will Mark Traylor, 1401 FM 2818, #224, College Station, Tex. 77843 please submit stand-by orders for Germany? If no one objects, Winter 1906 and Spring 1907 orders are due by Thursday, 4 January 1978.

LIMBO

I have two sets of orders on hand, which is insufficient. In the meantime, it appears that Ronald Kelly has resigned. Will Eric P. Verheiden, 200 S. Azusa Ave. Azusa, Ca. 91702 please submit standby orders for France? In fact, will he take it over? If no one objects, Winter 1905 and Spring 1906 orders are due by 4 January 1978.

LIMBO

And for this I have three sets of Winter 1901 builds on hand. Deadline extended until 4 January 1978.

WHERE THE FAULT LIES

As a final blistering statement, let me say that, in my seven years in this hobby, I have often seen poor gamesmastering and publishing attacked, most often by other gamesmasters and publishers. An exception occurred this summer during the panel at DipCon when, discussing gms, I pointed out that even if they set things up so they lose no money (and, by the way, Mark, 25¢ an issue covers my expenses for a 12-page issue to a subscriber), there is still an enormous investment of time and capital. I mentioned the fact that Len Lakofka had dropped out; but that he had served as a gamesmaster for

One often sees statements that inefficient and perpetually-late gamesmasters cause people to lose interest and drop out of their games. This claim has a surface plausibility, until one examines some statistics.

Unfortunately, the only statistics I have are those culled from my games. I let a take those games which I have run from start to finish. My publishing schedule has been highly regular, so I assume that is sufficient to deter dropouts.

In the 12 games I have run from start to finish, there have been a total of 429 players. That is an average of 10.75 a game. That means that between three and four players have been replaced in the course of a game.

Of course, those are the games which I have run. Orphans are even worse: five games have had 63 players for an average of 12.8. It's good to know that some games are worse than others.

Now, hold it! Please remember that I make efforts to maintain my players that other gamesmasters don't. I usually call them up if their moves are missing.

Ron Kelly missed his moves last issue. I shrugged and thought I'd see him again this issue. Nope: I got a card that read:

Congratulations! You have finally succeeded in bounding me out of the games in your zine.

Thus I have no choice but to request a refund on my sub balance.

/s/ Ronald Kelly

Hold on a second here! I am not sure how I hounded Mr. Kelly out of his games.

Last issue, when I realized that his moves were not in, I tried to call Kelly at his home. I didn't have his number on file, so I tried information, only to be told Kelly has an unlisted number.

Kelly's moves staggered in the following Tuesday (I think; it may have been Monday or Wednesday), but the zine had long since gone out.

This is not the only case of this happening. One player called me up fearfully a week after the deadline, begging me to take his moves. He would be able to keep his record of never having missed a move. One player resigned from a game because I had not called him for his missing moves on the grounds that I "owed" it to my players to do so.

What the hell is going on here?

The statistics above indicate that, yes, slow, uneven gamesmastering can cause people to drop out of a game. But it indicates more basically that players simply drop out of games.

As a player, I missed one set of moves, and that was deliberate. As a gamesmaster, I have always kept to schedule. I have been aided by excellent players and standbys like Eric Verheiden, Dennis Klein, Paul Rauterberg and (to give the devil his due) Ron Kelly. But I can do nothing against people who join a game and lose interest when they discover they are losing; or simply lose interest. Nor can anyone else.

Responsibility? I try to fulfill my responsibilities as fully and fairly as I can. I have failed often, in retrospect, but I have done a pretty fair job. And as a result, when a player misses his moves, I try to call him up and discover he has an unlisted number. His failure becomes my attempts to hound him out of the games in this zine!

What the hell is going on here?

Let's see: what we have here are statistics that indicate that players in games in a gm dropout situation (which can be assumed to indicate unreliability in a gm) drop out at a slightly greater rate than players in a game which appears regularly. True, the tendency to drop out may have been exacerbated by, until recently, my lack of game fees (would anyone here care to guess how many players told me to sign them up for a couple of games and later dropped out?), which was one of the reasons I instituted them (the others being to slow down the growth of games here and thirdly, to get a little money for the extras), but it continues now. I have four missing sets of moves for TMG XX and it's only in Winter 1901.

THE NEW YORK CONSPIRACY
[a subsidiary of Paulson Enterprises]

announces

APA-Filk

This is planned as an apa for Filksongs and filksingers, in case you weren't able to guess. Filksongs, discussions thereof, the twenty-eight new verses of Young Man Mulligan you've written, all are welcome.

The first collation will be distributed at Boskone. Submissions and cash to cover mailing the issue back to you are due by 1 Feb. 1979 to

Robert Bryan Lipton
Box 232, 118 Massachusetts Ave.
Boston, Mass. 02115

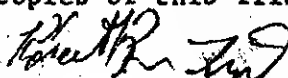
Please make all checks payable to Mr. Lipton.

For details on submissions, formatting, etc, see the fine print below.

FINE PRINT

- 1: Apa-Filk is planned as quarterly. For the first issue, until it can be figured out precisely what the copy count will be, copy count will be 100 copies. Minac will be figured at 4 pages every four issues or one page per issue. Members will be expected to pay for postage; send a check for a few dollars with your contribution and I shall keep the books.
- 2: For those who do not have access to printing facilities, I have an e-stenciller and Gestetner. If you send me typed (or drawn or whatever) material for e-stencilling, the cost will be 35c for each page e-stencilled; if I run it off for you, it will be 65c per sheet or part thereof. Postage is variable, depending on the size of the collation, so send a couple of bucks for that and specify whether you want it first class, third or whatever.
- 3: Subscribers will be permitted; however, things will be set up so that it will be less expensive to contribute than to subscribe.
- 4: There will be no editing of material unless it is requested and I have the time to edit; however, I reserve the right to either not receive particularly billious items or to lose them.
- 5: For those of you who worry about such things, Lee Burwasser and I are working out a reversion-to-author copyright system.

All contributions, questions, brickbats, bombs and illustrations for APA-Filk are welcome. If you want two hundred copies of this flier, write me before the end of December 1978. ABYSSINIA,



So, let's try a different hypothesis. Let's see what support we can think of for the theory that players missing their moves cause gamesters to become irregular or drop out.

Consider the matter. A gamester or player turns out his zine or game regularly; but because the game or zine is not important to his players, because they miss moves, drop out, and never say "thank you" (or almost never do so), it becomes obvious that his efforts are not important to the players. Well, if it's not important to the players, why should it be important to him? No reason and so, when one afternoon when he should be turning out the game reports, something else comes up, why, he does that. The reactions are of three kinds: either the lactivity is ignored, it is attacked, usually by someone who feels himself harmed thereby, or it causes the players to lose interest, as the game becomes tenuous in its movement.

None of these are any help to the gamester-publisher, of course. Two of the reactions merely prove that no one really cares what he does, and the third (or actually, the second; sorry, this is first-drafted, as has been everything I've written here) is certainly not a positive suggestion. Enough of these occurrences, and, eventually, the whole thing collapses.

It sounds like the reasons many marriages collapse, doesn't it? Lack of interest and negative comments until there is nothing holding things together except a license and habit.

I commented to someone that I know how a divorce feels now. I've been "married" to this zine for five and a half years, which is a big chunk of my life. I get no joy out of it any more, between the people who think that I have the responsibility to do their jobs, the people who think I am doing a crummy job and attack, and the people who simply don't care.

Not everyone is like that, but the eight or nine people who feel differently are not enough to make me continue to work my ass off for them. When a marriage is over because the husband and wife no longer care enough to even try, then it is time to say goodbye.

But please, whatever you do, don't repeat the mistakes made here.

Goodbye.

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